

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (previously presented) A head gimbal assembly (HGA) for a hard disk drive (10), comprising:

a flexure (22);

a head slider (21) mounted on the flexure (22) and including a stainless steel lamina (40) with a front edge (48), a side (44), and a rear (50), and providing for a read pair (R-, R+) and a write pair (W-, W+) of electrical connections;

a group of dielectric-material ridges (42) disposed on said stainless steel lamina (40), and set orthogonal to one another along the side (44), front (48), and rear (50) edges, all on an underside (46) of the head slider (21);

a pair of dabs (52) of non-conductive epoxy generally disposed in the gaps between the front and side ones of the group of dielectric-material ridges (42) near said front edge (48), and having an electrical resistance in the range of 3K to 12M ohms;

a pair of dabs (56) of conductive epoxy generally disposed in the gaps between the rear and side ones of the group of dielectric-material ridges (42) near said rear edge (50), and having an electrical resistance of less than fifty ohms, and subject to dielectric breakdown when impressed with 1-5 volts; and

a read-write head (20) insulatively supported by the group of dielectric-material ridges (42), and structurally attached to the head slider (21) by the pair of dabs (52) of non-conductive epoxy, and grounded for electrostatic protection by the pair of dabs (56) of conductive epoxy;

wherein, such construction reduces the head and the slider's exposure to severe electrostatic discharge (ESD) events and dissipates electrostatic voltage charges on the head.

14. (currently amended) The HGA of Claim 13, further comprising:

~~an electromagnetic interference (EMI) generating~~ a discharging circuit (60) for generating a current flow through the pair of dabs (56) of conductive epoxy to break down the dielectric resistance of the conductive epoxy, wherein electrostatic charge on the read-write head (20) and head slider (21) will thereafter be dissipated to prolong their service lives.

15. (currently amended) The HGA of Claim 14, further comprising:

means for the ~~EMI generating~~ discharging circuit (60) to produce 1-5 milliamps of current through the pair of dabs (56) of conductive epoxy.

16. (currently amended) The HGA of Claim 14, further comprising:

means for the ~~EMI generating~~ discharging circuit (60) to be electromagnetically coupled to the read-write head (20).

17. (currently amended) The HGA of Claim 14, further comprising:

means for the ~~EMI generating~~ discharging circuit (60) to be switched on that will then dissipate an electrostatic voltage charge on the read-write head (20).

18. (currently amended) The HGA of Claim 14, further comprising:

means for switching on the ~~EMI generating~~ discharging circuit (60) during manufacture of the HGA that will then dissipate an electrostatic voltage charge on the read-write head (20).